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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/722,745	11/25/2003	Ronald D. Coleman	51114/44352	7298
7590	02/03/2006		EXAMINER	
David R. Deal Thompson Coburn LLP One US Bank Plaza St. Louis, MO 63101-9928			FIDEI, DAVID	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3728	

DATE MAILED: 02/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)						
	10/722,745	COLEMAN, RONALD D.						
	Examiner David T. Fidei	Art Unit 3728						
<i>– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –</i>								
Period for Reply								
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). 								
Status								
<p>1)<input type="checkbox"/> Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.</p> <p>2a)<input type="checkbox"/> This action is FINAL. 2b)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This action is non-final.</p> <p>3)<input type="checkbox"/> Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i>, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.</p>								
Disposition of Claims								
<p>4)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-14</u> is/are pending in the application.</p> <p>4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.</p> <p>5)<input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.</p> <p>6)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-14</u> is/are rejected.</p> <p>7)<input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.</p> <p>8)<input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.</p>								
Application Papers								
<p>9)<input type="checkbox"/> The specification is objected to by the Examiner.</p> <p>10)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The drawing(s) filed on <u>25 November 2003</u> is/are: a)<input type="checkbox"/> accepted or b)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> objected to by the Examiner.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).</p> <p>11)<input type="checkbox"/> The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.</p>								
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119								
<p>12)<input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).</p> <p>a)<input type="checkbox"/> All b)<input type="checkbox"/> Some * c)<input type="checkbox"/> None of:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">1.<input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">2.<input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">3.<input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).</p>								
<p>* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.</p>								
Attachment(s)								
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 2px;"> 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) </td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 2px;"> 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 2px;"> 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) </td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 2px;"> 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 2px;"> 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. </td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 2px;"> 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. </td> </tr> </table>			1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.	2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)	3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.
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3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.							

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the retaining portion in its construction must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Figure 1 of the drawings also contains solid line constructions where it is unclear how the main body is constructed. It is not known if the retaining portion 62 is a pocket, flap, recess or some other type of construction. It is not known what the solid line overlays in the bottom of figure 1, main body 22, is meant to show.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. As noted with regard to the drawings, the disclosure fails to describe how the retaining portion 62 is constructed. Nothing is set forth instructing one as to what is contemplated by the retaining portion, how it is constructed or what type of features are envisioned by the main body bottom section.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claim 7-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bromberg (Patent no. 6,129,388). In claim 7, the specific details of the personal organizer are recited as a use for the sliding panel.

A statement of intended use, which is merely recited in the preamble, does not limit the recitations of structure, which follow the preamble to the indicated use. *In re Tuominen*, 671 F.2d 1359 (C.C.P.A. 1982). A statement of intended use does not qualify or distinguish the structure claimed over the prior art. *In re Sinex*, 309 F.2d 488 (C.C.P.A. 1962).

In order to further limit the claim there must be some distinction based upon the intended use recited. “However, in apparatus, article, and composition claims, intended use must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art, see M.P.E.P. § 2111.02 THE INTENDED USE MAY FURTHER LIMIT THE CLAIM IF IT DOES MORE THAN MERELY STATE PURPOSE OR INTENDED USE. The examiner can see no structural differences between the claimed invention and the prior art based upon the intended use recited.

Bromberg discloses a sliding panel 12 having a first and second edge at opposite extremities defining an access device 31 and an insertion portion including a ramp defined by the taper of the sliding panel on the left side of figure 1. A stopping device is defined by flap 24 at fold line 33. The stopping device having a width measured from the longitudinal axis of the sliding panel.

As to claims, claim 9-13, further defining the electronic device is a calculator does nothing to further define the sliding panel when the electronic device is not a positive part of the claimed invention but inferred as a matter of intended use.

REPLY BY APPLICANT OR PATENT OWNER TO THIS OFFICE ACTION

6. “In order to be entitled to reconsideration or further examination, the applicant or patent owner must reply to every ground of objection and rejection in this Office action. The reply must present arguments pointing out the specific distinctions believed to render the claims, including any newly presented claims, patentable over any applied references. The applicant ’s or patent owner ’s reply must appear throughout to be a bona fide attempt to advance the application or the reexamination proceeding to final action. A general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references does not comply with the requirements of this section. The reply must be reduced to writing (emphasis added)”, see 37 CFR 1.111 (b) & (c), M.P.E.P. 714.02.

Pointing out specific distinctions means clearly indicating in the written response what features/elements or distinctions have been added to the claim/claims, where support is found in the specification for such recitations and how these features are not shown, taught, obvious or inherent in the prior art.

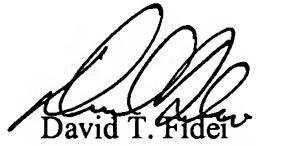
If no amendments are made to claims as applicant or patent owner believes the claims are patentable without further modification, the reply must distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the examiner ’s action and must respond to every ground of objection and rejection in the prior Office Action in the same vain as given above, 37 CFR 1.111 (b) & (c), M.P.E.P. 714.02.

The examiner also points out, due to the change in practice as affecting final rejections, older decisions on questions of prematurity of final rejection or admission of subsequent amendments do not necessarily reflect present practice. “Under present practice, second or any subsequent actions on the merits shall be final, except where the examiner introduces a new ground of rejection that is neither necessitated by applicant’s amendment of the claims nor based on information submitted in an information disclosure statement filed during the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.97(c)” (emphasis mine), see MPEP 706.07(a).

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David T. Fidei whose telephone number is (571) 272-4553. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mickey Yu can be reached on (571) 272-4562. The Official Fax number to file responses to this Office Action is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



David T. Fidei
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3728

dtf
February 1, 2006